

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

25X1A

TOPIC Military Information from Zeitz

EVALUATION 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 2 to 13 September 1953 25X1A

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 5 October 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Between 2 and 13 September 1953, the Artillerie Kaserne west of Friedensstrasse, Zeitz, was occupied by an estimated 450 to 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, 40 percent of whom wore artillery insignia, 40 percent tank and motor transport insignia; 10 percent AT insignia, and 10 percent were without branch of service insignia. One barracks building was fully lighted after nightfall, while, in a second building, only the second floor was lighted. A colonel wearing tank insignia was ranking officer.

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25X1 5 September, two units totaling about 350 troops were lined up for a roll call in the barracks yard; they were addressed by an officer. On 6 September, about 30 officers left the installation toward the town; source believed that they were off duty. Between 8 and 13 September, about 30 soldiers, wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, armed with 6 antitank guns, submachine guns and carbines and carrying silhouettes and other practice targets, daily at about 9 a.m. left the installation for the training area on the Elster River.

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2. Between 2 and 13 September, the Infanterie Kaserne east of Friedensstrasse was occupied by an estimated 150 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with artillery insignia. Only a few windows were lighted after nightfall. Troops observed engaged in physical training and guard duty.

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Comment. From 24 to 28 August, an exercise of the 20th Gds Mecz Div was held in the Zeitz area. Information in this report tends to indicate that the bulk of the units returned to the Ohrdruf troop training grounds.

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